

offer their time and resources to local high school sports teams so they can perform at the highest level possible.

This year's recipient, Mr. Sligh, Sr., founded the Stuart Sligh Jr. Memorial Foundation in honor of his 16-year-old son, a standout athlete at Savannah Country Day School in both baseball and football who tragically passed away in a car accident.

Raising money in Stu Sligh's memory, the foundation has contributed over \$50,000 to school athletics across the Savannah area, as well as other organizations in the State, like the YMCA.

The donations have gone toward purchasing pitching machines for baseball teams, new jerseys for football teams, and much more.

I thank Mr. Sligh for his work in our community and congratulate him on winning the 2019 Unsung Hero Award.

LGBTQ AMERICANS DESERVE THE EQUALITY ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, the LGBTQ community cannot wait any longer for their full rights and equal protection to be guaranteed across this country.

We must pass H.R. 5, the Equality Act.

Only 29 States have laws explicitly barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Only 20 States have these protections for gender identity. That is unacceptable.

Being able to be your true self should not depend on where you live. Your protections and equal rights should not depend on where you live.

All LGBTQ Americans deserve nothing less than full rights and equal protection under the law, and that is exactly what the Equality Act will do.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this historic civil rights bill to guarantee full equality for all. It will be on the floor later.

CELEBRATING ARMED FORCES DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, May 18, our Nation celebrates Armed Forces Day.

Recognized the third Saturday in May since President Truman, Armed Forces Day is a time for us to pay special tribute to the brave men and women serving in all areas of the military.

It is also a time to educate the public on the impacts that our servicemembers have on communities across the country.

As the proud father of a soldier, I am endlessly grateful for the selfless actions of our servicemembers and their devotion to country.

Our servicemen and -women serve throughout the world as a beacon of light, carrying with them our values of liberty and justice. This service is often done on foreign lands and away from family and friends, but their willingness to defeat any threat that seeks to harm American values and interests never wavers.

Madam Speaker, with this day, we hope to show our appreciation so those honored are aware of how much we think of them and their sacrifices.

BUY CERTIFIED AMERICAN-GROWN FLOWERS

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of buying American-grown flowers.

Whether it is celebrating a wedding or graduation, or sending condolences, flowers have been used to mark significant occasions for thousands of years.

I have seen the value this industry adds to our economy and communities during my visits with our hardworking central coast farmers and workers. The cut flower industry generates thousands of jobs and produces \$1.2 billion in economic activity each year through flower farmers, distributors, and florists.

California grows an astonishing 75 percent of American-grown flowers, yet only a fraction of the flowers sold across the country were grown here. That must change.

This week, Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced a resolution to designate July as American Grown Flower Month and to encourage consumers to buy flowers with the "Certified American Grown" label.

By passing H.R. 379, we will honor the beauty this industry brings to our homes year-round and help keep our American-grown flower industry prosperous.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF STEVE YOUNG

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, as the city of Kennewick and the greater Tri-Cities community mourns the loss of Councilman and former Mayor Steve Young.

Steve held the distinction as the second longest-serving mayor in the long history of the city of Kennewick, serving the people for nearly a decade in that role. But his service went far beyond those years.

Outside of his continued service as a councilman, Steve's footprint

stretched far and wide, across not only the city of Kennewick and the Tri-Cities but the entire State of Washington.

His vision, his advocacy, and his passion for serving the community will continue on through the many contributions he provided for the Tri-Cities.

The long list of community organizations, nonprofits, and local and State boards on which Steve served rightly demonstrate just how passionate he was about serving his community.

My deepest condolences go out to Steve's wife, Anita. My thoughts and prayers go out to her and the entire Young family.

May my friend rest in peace. We will miss him.

VOTE FOR EQUALITY

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, a mile from my district sits The Stonewall Inn, the site where, five decades ago, Americans took to the streets to fight back against hate and launch the modern movement for LGBT rights.

In a few hours, this House will pay homage to that struggle as we vote on historic legislation to protect the fundamental rights of millions of Americans.

The Equality Act will extend anti-discrimination protections to LGBTQ Americans. Sadly, from education to housing to credit, in so many areas, discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity remains legal. That is wrong, and this bill will, at long last, change that.

Madam Speaker, this is an issue of moral character. It speaks to who we are as a Nation.

For us individually, this vote speaks to who we are not just as legislators but as human beings. I implore all my colleagues to do what you know is right in your heart.

Vote for equality. Vote for respect, kindness, and love. Vote to end bigotry and discrimination.

Vote "yes" on the Equality Act.

COMBATING BDS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with America's friend and ally Israel against a rising tide of anti-Semitism and the dangerous Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, or BDS movement.

BDS is a form of economic warfare aimed at marginalizing the world's only Jewish state. This radical agenda rejects Israel's right to self-defense and seeks to destroy its economy.

The House must stand with Israel and pass H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East